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THE RESOLUTIONS AS
SEEN BY A NUMBER OF
FLORIDA NEWSPAPERS

Why the Discrimination?

Why should the Guardians of Liberty be singled out for denunciation by the state democratic executive committee in their recent sitting at Jacksonville, any more than the Knights of Columbus? Looks like a "nigger in the wood pile" somewhere.—Lakeland Star.

Why Didn't the Thirty-Four Specify?

Dixie says that paper has won a great victory in having the "Guardians of Liberty" kicked out of the democratic party. As a matter of information we would like to ask why the executive committee failed to mention that organization if it was the one selected for the goat.—Gadsden County Times.

Fish Of One and Fowl of the Other.

Here is a question that in the name of fair play, naturally suggests itself: When we attempt to deny participation in a democratic primary to Guardians of Liberty, what are we going to do about other secret societies or organizations, like the Young Men's Hebrew Democratic Club, or even the Knights of Columbus?

We once knew of a trial and conviction in the federal court. The presiding judge asked what the offender had to say as to why sentence should not be imposed upon him. "Oh, nud-dings," pleaded the convict, except that Ize a bin a mighty good republican all the while!"

The resolution recently adopted by our state committee was to say the least, a pretty extreme sort of measure. We are unalterably opposed to a ruling that makes "fish of one and fowl of another."

This government was founded upon the principle that all men are created equal. Old Josh Billings used to plagiarize this declaration with the assertion that "One man is just as good as another, and a darned sight better."

The truth is, we have had the primary system in Florida for over fifteen years. Secret orders or associations have often dominated. The man best qualified rarely wins, and the whole order of things is gradually growing from bad to worse; and we can attribute this condition to nothing else than to our primary system of nominations.—Jacksonville Floridian.

Zim Calls It "A Good Fatherhood."

The state democratic executive committee is to be commended for many good things which it did for the party, at the recent meeting in Jacksonville, but in no particular is it more to be lauded than for safeguarding the spirit of the constitution of the United States.

All observing men are acquainted with the movement of a certain set of narrow minded bigots, headed by men whose sole purpose is the riding into office through the instrumentality of denominational animosities, and they can understand that these selfish carriers are unmindful of all else save their own selfish aggrandizement. Party principles and good of country are secondary to their coveted purposes. Hence the imperative need of action on the part of a party, to see to it that the spirit of the constitution should be lived up to while endeavoring to provide for the best administration possible, under that constitution.—Louis Zim's St. Augustine Meteor.

Stuckie May Be Simply a Small Politician.

Not so Stuckie, the committeeman from Pasco county. While bewailing the influence of religion in politics,

he gravely asserts that he is acting out of consideration for the Catholics of Pasco county, whom he said composed 65 per cent. of the voters.

The inconsistent Mr. Stuckie, who claims to represent a Catholic constituency, is the first man to raise offensively the religious question in the state. In his official political capacity he brings the religious question squarely into politics, and tells us that his vote is not influenced by Catholics, but that it is actually determined by them. And, mind you, he does this so that no man hereafter may even dare to think enough on this subject to in the least influence his ballot except at the peril of his right to vote in a democratic primary.

Mr. Stuckie, after having raised this question yourself, and after having your say and your vote, don't you think it nothing less than small—very small—politics to try to cut off discussion by the people?

We have never seen Mr. Stuckie, but if we ever come in range of him we will most confidently expect to see the word "Inconsistency" written all over him.

However, we do not want to judge him too harshly. If it be true that 65 per cent. of his voters are Catholics, we suspect that he was simply making himself solid back home. After all, he may not be so deficient in logic—he may be simply a plain, ordinary, small politician. Such a man would see nothing wrong in depriving thousands of white men of their political rights, provided he thought he was helping himself.

And Mr. Jim Barrs must have known his man and the situation back home—hence his selection. And now no doubt Mr. Jimmy is somewhere around the corner chuckling and wondering when the next easy mark will be in town.—Jacksonville Free Press.

Will Stir Up Antagonism and Strife.

Thirty-four men met in Jacksonville last week and passed a resolution that if carried out to the letter, will disfranchise some fifteen or twenty thousand voters in the state of Florida. In our opinion, this "religious clause" as passed by the state democratic executive committee, will do more to stir up religious and political strife than anything that has been done in the state since the civil war. The situation is strained as it is, and the enforcement of the resolution will stir up antagonism and strife such as never has been experienced in this state before. The campaign now in progress gives promise of being more than lively.—Baker County Standard.

An Unfortunate Mess.

There has been much criticism of a resolution adopted by the state democratic executive committee at its session in Jacksonville last week.

And yet there is nothing in the resolution to alienate democrats.

The point in the resolution which has stirred up so many reads:

"That he is not a member of any secret organization which attempts in any way to influence political action or results, or the obligations and purposes of which organization will justify him in refusing to support any nominee of the party."

All men who participate in a democratic primary are in honor bound to support the ticket named in that primary. If a man belongs to a secret organization, the obligation of which requires that he shall bolt the party nominees, then he can not be a democrat.

All of us at some time or other are required to support men in the general election who were not our choice in the primary, simply because the majority made them the party nominees.

Many of us have gotten behind closed doors with our friends and agreed to support certain men in the primary, but if these men whom we

had agreed to support failed to secure the nomination, we have gone to the polls at the general election, and like democrats, have supported the ticket.

If there is a secret organization, the obligation of which demands that its members bolt the nominee in certain contingencies, it is an undemocratic organization.

In promulgating this rule the state executive committee has imposed no additional condition of party fealty. For this reason, if for no other, the resolution is useless, and because of the mess it has stirred up, is unfortunate.

The resolution, it is understood, was prepared by Mr. J. M. Barrs, of Jacksonville, a friend of Senator N. P. Bryan.—Palatka News.

"A Regulation to Promote Riots," Jordan Names It.

The enforcement of that rule is likely to exclude ten thousand or more democrats, one-third of whom reside in Jacksonville, where the committee met. It is well known that this one-third, if permitted, will vote solidly against Senator N. P. Bryan, because he had a Roman Catholic citizen appointed postmaster of Jacksonville, and it is believed that the other two-thirds are also solidly against Senator Bryan. It, therefore, looks as if the rule were adopted in the interest of Senator Bryan.

If this objectionable rule is rigidly enforced, it may disrupt the Florida democratic party. Colonel Anderson, of Jacksonville, the state leader of the Rooseveltian progressives, already foresees the probability of nearly half of the democratic voters flocking to his standard.

Indications are growing stronger that some republican, or possibly progressive Machiavel, has cunningly sowed the seeds of dissension in the democratic party. The organization of these secret political societies and the adoption of that fifth resolution by the state committee, bode no good for the party.

The Herald, however, believes that the rule will not be enforced. If attempted in Jacksonville or Tampa, there may be serious trouble. The restriction, therefore, might not inaptly be called a regulation to promote riots in Tampa, Jacksonville and other places where these secret political societies have become strong and determined.—Punta Gorda Herald.

Charlie Jones in Bob McNamee's Dixie Throws Light.

The prohibition party has no right to vote in a democratic primary. There are many traitors and hypocrites who vote for the prohibition candidates for president, but who participate in a democratic primary. They boast that they are prohibitionists, but when they go to the registration officer they take an oath that they are democrats. It is the allowing of enemies of the party to participate in a primary that makes the primary little short of a farce. It is the participation of these hypocrites and traitors that is creating a demand for the old convention system, where men had to come out in the open and make known just how they stood.—Charles Jones, in "Dixie."

Failed to Specify Which Organization.

The state democratic executive committee adopted a resolution disqualifying all electors who are members of secret political or religious organizations, whose votes are influenced by principles of such organizations. As the committee failed to designate which organizations attempt such influence, the resolution will have no weight.—Gadsden County Times.

The Sheep and the Goats.

The Florida executive committee of the democratic party has attempted to separate the sheep and the goats, although just which class the resolutions used for the separation will make the goats is not clear. It looks like the party as a whole is the goat.—Leesburg Commercial.

A Pretty Pass.

Has it come to the pass that a democrat has no right to belong to a secret society? Also, if a good democrat happens to be a Roman Catholic, must he be prohibited from voting against Candidate Catts?—Punta Gorda Herald.

CARDINAL MERCIER AND HIS MISSION.

Cardinal Mercier, the biggest man in the Catholic church in Belgium, is on a mission to the pope. What the nature of his mission is, is only a conjecture, but knowing the history of the efforts of the cardinal to cause the Germans to relieve the situation in Belgium, as well as his bold and fearless stand against their encroachments on their rights and his protests against and exposures of their barbarities in the face of grave danger of death to himself, we can give a

pretty safe guess.

Belgium has in Cardinal Mercier a bold and fearless champion, a man of great ability, enjoying the confidence of the people, and protected, through the high position that he holds in the Catholic church, from the punishment that would surely be inflicted on him by the Germans, if he were a layman. When the Germans first entered his country, after being unable to stop the barbarities inflicted on the inhabitants, he wrote a letter exposing them, smuggled it through the lines, an offense in itself punishable by death, which letter was published to the outside world. It was one of the first expositions of German atrocities in Belgium, and coming from a man of the honor and integrity of Cardinal Mercier, was believed throughout the world. Later he wrote a letter to all the priests in Belgium to be read to their congregations on a certain Sunday, in which he admonished his people to be of good cheer, that the time would come when Belgium would be out from under German domination. In spite of the ban placed on these by the German military authorities, they were read, and no one was punished. To do so would have influenced against the Germans millions of Catholics all over the country, and they were wise enough to see it. So was Cardinal Mercier.

The pope, having subjects on both sides of the war, is not in a position to take sides with either. He thinks that by maintaining a strict neutrality he will be better able to help right the wrongs of his churchmen in Belgium after the war. The visit of Cardinal Mercier was no doubt made to acquaint the most powerful churchman in the world with some of the facts of the real condition of Belgium. We hope that all the good forces of the world may be brought to bear to restore this little kingdom to its own, for which we have only the deepest sympathy. Cardinal Mercier can do much to hasten this work by acquainting the outside world of the real conditions. In the meantime we wish to pay the highest tribute to the man who has above all others of its citizens, stood up for the rights of his country in the face of death, and has given to the world an example of devoted patriotism that even the German militarism with all its discipline, has not been able to still. He will go down in Belgian history as the foremost patriot in the hour of his country's greatest need.

GREAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EDITORIAL AND NEWS MATTER.

Many readers would save themselves annoyance and inconvenience if they would stop a moment and consider that there are three functions a paper has to perform; to advertise the wares of a merchant; to present the news in a fair and impartial manner; to give editorial expressions along the lines of the policy of the periodical.

Without the advertising the newspaper would make but sorry headway—for the sales of any paper would not reimburse the publishers for the blank paper stock which is bought by the car load and disposed of by the minimum amount. There is not a paper at this time published, probably, but what the blank stock and the postage will cost more than is received by the firm from the subscribers and readers. Consequently it remains with the advertiser to make the paper the more readable, the more attractive, the more profit-producing, by his well displayed notices of the goods he handles.

The news columns are supposed to contain without bias, and totally regardless of the wishes, intentions and plans of the publishers, news of certain things which have happened or are about to occur; expressions and opinions of men whose names bear weight in matters of moment; and a resume of proceedings in which there shall be the gatherings of accounts of all characters and upon all topics of patrons may be seriously condemned by another—while still a third faction may consider the items approved by the other two as not worth the space occupied, and will be pleased with matter which but little concerns the others.

In the editorial column, and in that alone, is to be found the policy of the paper. In that column are expressed the beliefs and the disbeliefs, the pictures of progressive policies and the consideration of various features of happenings of importance; in that column are given arguments for those actions which it is believed will redound to the benefit of the party, the community, the state and the country at large. The utterances found therein may be based upon the news columns—but they have the characteristic showing of being independently written—and from the standpoint of argument more than from the basic principles given of the

occurrence.

It is by the editorial column that the policy of the paper may be judged—and people are commencing to realize the fact. The sooner it is thoroughly understood by all readers the better it will be for them—and for the journal itself.—Palm Beach Post.

FLORIDA IN THE NEWSPAPER FIELD.

Booster W. B. Powell, of the Clearwater Sun, is always hunting up something that will show up Florida well. Hear him on Florida in the newspaper field:

"N. W. Ayer & Son have just issued the newspaper annual for 1915, and it contains some interesting statistics of Florida newspaperdom, as follows:

Number of towns in which newspapers are published, 115.

Number of towns which are county seats, 49.

Number of dailies, 31.

Number of semi-weeklies, 4.

Number of weeklies, 158.

Number of fortnightlies, 2.

Number of semi-monthlies, 1.

Number of monthlies, 10.

Number of quarterlies, 1.

Total, all issues, 207.

Florida has more daily newspapers than Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, Alaska, Hawaii, Philippines, Porto Rico or any of the provinces of Canada, except Ontario.

"Furthermore, the Florida dailies, in our opinion, taking them all in all, in comparison with dailies printed in other cities of like size, are far superior in contents and larger and have a more prosperous look."

Ion L. Farris, candidate for governor of Florida, is out with a long statement of his position on the politico-religious situation of the state that reminds one a great deal of the politician who announced that he was going to tell the people exactly where he stood in a certain matter, and then followed his announcement with a long spiel that ultimately summed up his position about so: "If it's right, I'm for it; if it's wrong, I'm against it."—Tatpon Springs Leader.

There is no need for equivocation upon the part of any candidate in regard to this controversy. There is not a valid reason as to why such resolutions should have been passed. There are hundreds of reasons why they should not have been, the chief of which is that they are undemocratic, and an attempt to throttle and disfranchise thousands of democratic voters, democrats who will exercise their choice in the primary, as they have a right to do, but who will support the nominees of whatever creed or of no creed. We have never before heard of such an attempt upon the part of a committee, and we shall take it that any candidate who is afraid or refuses to see the injustice of these resolutions, would also be unable to see the justice of other questions of equal importance when he is elected. We have a high regard for Mr. Farris, but he should not equivocate on a question of such moment. We hope he will espouse one side or the other at once. We could not support a candidate who believes the executive committee has any just right for passing such resolutions.

L. GRADY BURTON ANNOUNCES FOR COUNTY SOLICITOR.

The News calls attention to the announcement of L. Grady Burton for county attorney, which will be found in another column of this paper. Mr. Burton attended the law department of the University of Virginia for three years, and this year he went to the Florida University. Mr. Burton had been at this university about two weeks when he took the examination before the supreme court to be admitted to the bar. He passed this examination with high honors, and continued his studies at this university until Christmas. Since then he has been connected with his brother in the John W. Burton law firm.

C. L. CRAVENS FOR SURVEYOR.

We desire to call attention to the announcement found in another column of this paper of Mr. C. L. Cravens as a candidate for the office of county surveyor.

The duties of this office were greatly magnified by the last Florida legislature, as the county surveyor by virtue of his office becomes a member of the drainage board. Mr. Cravens is admirably fitted for the office to which he aspires, having had the advantage of a good education through courses taken in the Trice State Col-

lege of Indiana, and the Armour Institute of Technology, Chicago, Ill.

In addition to these he has had wide experience in surveying and engineering, having served as county surveyor in Stark county, Ill., for a period of nine years.

JIM MORQUE AGAIN HONORED

Has Been Appointed to the Important Position of Watch Inspector for the East and West Coast Railroad.

We are very glad to announce the our young friend, Jim Morque, has just been appointed watch inspector for the East and West Coast Railroad system. Mr. Morque has represented the C. H. & N. Railroad in this capacity for six years, and his services have been all that could be desired. We congratulate him on the additional expression of confidence in another company.

ADVERTISING AT FIVE CENTS AN INCH

Who are the editors who accept advertising matter at the rate of five cents an inch? That there must be few such degenerates is proved by the fact that occasionally we receive offers from various concerns, most patent medicine and animal curable houses, to buy advertising space some such wicked starvation rate. Every man of intelligence ought to know that such a rate represents dead loss to the publisher who accepts it. And then the ethics of the situation ought to be taken into consideration, too. When a representative body of editors and newspapermen generally, in conference assembled, decide upon a minimum display advertising rate of fifteen cents an inch for the state newspapers, which is the lowest rate at which such work can be well done with any profits, is, to say the least of it, unethical for any individual in the business to accept any less rate, unless it should be under very special and exceptional circumstances, perhaps unforeseen by the body making and passing the resolution governing the rates. Quite recently we had an offer of this kind asking for a two-year contract with horse liniment house, at rates the figured out at five cents an inch. The offer was returned with the editor's opinion of it couched in no uncertain terms, written across the card. So cheap skate would-be advertisers are a disgrace to the profession, and should be frozen out.—St. Augustine Record.

Hiram Maxim, of "silencer" fame, says that he will so tame the "chug-chug" of railroad locomotives that the shall emit nothing more than a gentle "puff-puff." All right, so far as it goes, but what about the clanging bell?—Louisville Herald.

This reminds us of what Irv Cobb said of the difference between the American and English locomotive. He said, "The American locomotive goes 'choo-choo,' while the English goes 'tut-tut'."

W. B. Powell, of the Clearwater Sun, speaking of fishing at Clearwater says: "They are coming from the banks with barrels full." Do the jump in the barrels, just as they do in the frying pans, and is this because there were too many to be fried at one time? In other words, do they just stay in the barrels to keep alive and fresh? Such is our interpretation when read in connection with your former article on this subject. Gladious Clearwater!

The Apalachicola Times in speaking of the fertility of the soils of Franklin county, uses the following language: "These lands produce cabbage weighing 60 pounds to the single cabbage, sugar cane twelve feet in height, and sweet potatoes 400 bushels to the acre." Just want to ask the Times what variety of cabbage is raised—that's all.

The man who laughs with those who laugh at him finds them laughing with him. That is, most often, the truest philosophy. There are many little experiences in life which we had better "laugh off" than try to wear off.—Times-Union.

Arranged in the order of a climax it should be thus: Everybody out for the big DeSoto County Fair, January 27, 28, 29, and then, THEN, Then, Feb. 4-11, everybody and the cook out for the big, BIGGER, Biggest, "BIGGEST" at Tampa.

We don't understand why the Florida Grower, the best paper of its kind in the world, has not come to our desk for three weeks or more. What have we done to be treated thusly?

It is true that often the things we hope for, fail to put in an appearance, but think of the wonderful compensation we get in the good things that so appear unexpectedly.—Lloyd.